

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) ~~A film preparation~~ An apparatus for preparing films suitable

~~for encapsulation from a solid film-forming material~~ comprising:

- a) at least one casting drum;
- b) means for melting solid said film-forming material on demand;
- c) pump means; and
- d) an extrusion device;

wherein said apparatus prepares encapsulation films from a solid film-forming material.

Claim 2 (original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said film-forming material has an aqueous component.

Claim 3 (original) An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said film-forming material comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of starch, gelatin, carrageenans, gums and synthetic materials.

Claim 4 (original) An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said film-forming material comprises iota-carrageenan and modified starch; water, a plasticizer, and a buffer.

Claim 5 (original) An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said film-forming material comprises gelatin, water and plasticizers.

Claim 6 (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said means for melting solid said film-forming material comprises a melt grid.

Claim 7 (original) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said melt grid is above the solid film-forming material.

Claim 8 (original) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said melt grid is below said solid film-forming material.

Claim 9 (original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pump means is a positive displacement pump.

Claim 10 (original) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said positive displacement pump is selected from the group consisting of gear pumps, lobe pumps, sine pumps, worm pumps, and archimedes screws.

Claim 11 (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 additionally comprising a reservoir means disposed between said means to melt said film-forming material polymer and said extrusion device.

Claim 12 (original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said extrusion device comprises a chamber and an extrusion slot.

Claim 13 (original) An apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said extrusion device is a coat hanger die.

Claim 14 (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 11 4 additionally comprising a manifold disposed between said reservoir means and said extrusion device.

Claim 15 (currently amended) An apparatus for applying a polymer to a substrate comprising:

- a) means to melt a solid said polymer on demand;
- b) pump means to transport the molten polymer to an extrusion device;
- c) reservoir means disposed between ~~to dispose between~~ said means to melt said solid polymer and said extrusion device; and
- d) at least one casting drum.

Claim 16 (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said extrusion device comprises a chamber and an extrusion slot.

Claim 17 (original) The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said extrusion device is a coat and hanger die.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 15 additionally comprising a distribution manifold disposed between said reservoir means and said extrusion device.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (canceled).